

## Regaining 171

### Chapter 171: Buying a Lollipop to Eat

"Nianhua, has something happened at home? Or if you're facing any difficulties, you can talk to your teacher," said Teacher Lin. She had heard that Xu Nianhua had failed her foreign language exam and sighed, Foreign language only counts for thirty percent, which is thirty points, but in the high-stakes college entrance exam, every single point can make a huge difference, let alone Nianhua's thirty points—she hadn't scored a single one.

Her usual grades, plus English, she should be able to pass, who knew...

Having known about this, Teacher Lin felt particularly sorry for Xu Nianhua.

"No, there's nothing,"

Xu Nianhua looked up at Teacher Lin with a blank expression, not understanding why Teacher Lin was asking this.

"Don't be afraid to speak up if you're having difficulties." Teacher Lin, with kind eyes and a gentle expression, was just over forty. She had a daughter, Lin Wei, who had already been admitted to university.

Both Teacher Lin and her husband were teachers, and she took her responsibility towards every student seriously. Several students couldn't afford to continue their education or their families wouldn't allow them to study, and Teacher Lin would always try to persuade them or help out in any way she could.

"Teacher Lin, I really am fine. It's just that I was sick before and then realized I had forgotten quite a bit of what I had learned," said Xu Nianhua truthfully, and somewhat embarrassedly looked at Teacher Lin, "But you don't need to worry, Teacher Lin. I'm completely healthy now, and I study the texts every day. By the time the college entrance exam comes around, I won't lose those points."

"That's good to hear. If you have just forgotten some texts, you can simply keep memorizing them," said Teacher Lin, reassured by this news.

The foreign language teacher, Li Teacher, spoke up, "Nianhua, your foreign language has improved a lot."

"Li Teacher, I have to thank you for teaching well and for some good luck. I got to know a big brother who is a university student from Ningbei; his foreign language is very good, and I picked up a few tips from him, which helped me improve," Xu Nianhua said, half truthfully. She added, "Right, he also gave me a set of self-study books for math, physics, and chemistry, as well as a lot of exam papers. Teacher Lin, I think we could print more of these and let everyone practice more problems. That could help improve everyone's results."

Xu Nianhua's words immediately shifted the attention of both teachers.

Restudying for the college entrance exam for a second year, materials like exam papers were always in short supply.

Xu Nianhua's willingness to share her papers excited both Teacher Lin and Li Teacher. Having more practice material to study could be incredibly beneficial for the students.

"Big brother, these papers..." Xu Nianhua had spoken directly to the teachers, completely forgetting to discuss it with her brother.

Xu Nian'an said with a stern face, "That's a good thing, do you think I would disapprove?"

"How could I? You're the best big brother," Xu Nianhua flattered him.

Xu Nian'an handed over his pocket money to Xu Nianhua.

Three yuan.

This was after the family's earnings had increased, leaving more money in hand.

"Big brother, you scored seventy points,"

Xu Nianhua looked at the money in his hand, not understanding why.

Xu Nian'an stuffed the money into her hand, saying, "Take it, buy yourself some lollipops."

"Big brother, do I look like a three-year-old?"

Xu Nianhua pouted, not at all pleased by Xu Nian'an treating her like a toddler, and pushed the money back, saying, "I don't have anything to buy, so I'm giving it back to you."

"Keep it."

Xu Nian'an said gravely, "I'm giving my little sister some spending money."

Chapter 172: Too Late

"Big brother, when you earn money in the future, will you still give me pocket money?" Xu Nianhua stopped refusing and took the money, thinking about what to give to her elder brother in return someday.

"Oh," Xu Nian'an sighed dramatically, "what can I do when you're my little sister."

"Haha~"

Xu Nianhua laughed joyfully, comforting him, "Don't worry, big brother, I'll help you pursue your 'sister-in-law' in the future."

Xu Nian'an: "..."

Did it mean that he couldn't chase the girl he liked by himself and had to rely on his little sister's help?

"Big brother, are you sure you don't want my help?" Xu Nianhua looked at him playfully, "I can say a lot of good things about you to 'sister-in-law,' even help deliver love letters, give her gifts, are you really sure you don't want it?"

Xu Nian'an pursed his lips, he had no plans to marry nor had he met someone he liked yet. He said, "You better not worry about this, focus more on memorizing classical poems and literature, don't fill your head with all this other stuff and forget them again."

"Hmph." Xu Nianhua, hurt by her big brother's stinging remark, thought to herself that if her big brother really couldn't catch up with his 'sister-in-law,' she would... help him later.

The exam papers they brought were quickly sent for printing. There were many types of papers, which made Teacher Lin and the others very happy. Having these papers could help the children score a few more points, which was indeed possible.

A few points, for these children, could also be a huge dividing line.

Xu Nianhua wondered whether or not to bring out the training set she used before to help everyone boost their foreign language scores.

Nowadays, a perfect score in foreign languages is thirty points, and managing to score fifteen or sixteen is considered exceptionally high.

But the current foreign language papers are really very simple. If she weren't afraid of scaring everyone, Xu Nianhua scoring full marks would be no problem. She intentionally shared some of the foreign language learning techniques she knew and even loudly read the foreign language during morning reading sessions, her pronunciation was very accurate, encouraging everyone to start speaking up.

"Little sister, when did you learn these foreign language techniques from Yicheng?" Xu Nian'an looked at Xu Nianhua puzzledly, he was with her every day, how did he not know about this?

"Oh, it was when we were discussing contracts."

Xu Nianhua blinked, this of course was made up, but she couldn't exactly say she figured it out all by herself, could she?

Therefore, it was best to let Pei Yicheng take the blame this time; after all, he was a college student.

"Oh, he's actually very good, not only teaching you foreign language techniques but also helping our family a great deal," Xu Nian'an was extremely grateful to Pei Yicheng. He had completely forgotten the foreign language skills Xu Nianhua displayed while translating contracts, which were truly impressive.

She and Pei Yicheng had known each other only one summer.

"I wonder how they are in South City now, are his legs healed?" Xu Nianhua brought this up and immediately became worried.

South City, at the old traditional Chinese medicine doctor's.

"You're late."

The old doctor shook his head with a sigh, "If you had come here right after the injury, there would have been an eighty percent chance of recovery, but now..."

Ling Dong felt upset, an eighty percent chance meant that if they had come earlier, Yicheng could have completely stood up on his legs!

"Doctor, is there still hope for me now?" Pei Yicheng asked with some difficulty. He had come this time with great hope, after having given up following countless setbacks before.

It was Xu Nianhua's influence that made him strongly want to treat his disabled leg again.

Chapter 173: Two Hundred Yuan in Hand

Helpless.

These four words were still echoing in Pei Yicheng's ears.

Ling Dong had pleaded for a long time, but the doctor only had this one sentence to say, merely suggesting the most conservative treatment which was the same as what Doctor Du had prescribed.

"Brother Cheng."

Ling Dong comforted, "We can still go look somewhere else."

"Yeah." As Pei Yicheng returned to the bustling street, his emotions had already recovered. He said, "Ling Dong, although I'm somewhat disappointed, I haven't lost hope. I've seen so many doctors in Ningbei before and none were able to cure me, I've gotten used to it."

"But, my grandfather said that there are several other places we can try. We'll visit them one by one, there will always be a chance." Pei Yicheng's gaze deepened, he refused to believe that his legs would definitely not heal.

In the whole of China, with its vast population, there would always be a chance.

"Right, take me back to see how well Haozi's chili sauce is selling," Pei Yicheng reminded.

Since they were there, they naturally had to sell the chili sauce.

"Brother Cheng, or shall we go together?" Ling Dong was uneasy about Pei Yicheng being alone.

Pei Yicheng frowned and said, "Ling Dong, I'm not the type to take my life lightly."

Once Ling Dong heard this, he instantly understood Pei Yicheng's meaning and pushed him back to their place, then went out to find Cheng Hao.

In the house, it suddenly became quiet. Pei Yicheng sat alone in the room, outside the window was the bustling crowd and lively streets, every person he saw had a pair of healthy legs.

He took a deep breath, couldn't help but close his eyes, and cleared his jumbled thoughts. He thought, there must be a way out even in the direst of situations.

"Ling Dong, how come you're here?" Cheng Hao had just negotiated the sale of a hundred bottles of chili sauce, feeling delighted at heart. Seeing Ling Dong without Pei Yicheng, he excitedly asked, "How is Brother Cheng? Can his legs be healed?"

Cheng Hao looked at Ling Dong with a face full of expectation.

Ling Dong had a serious expression.

Cheng Hao also understood that it was probably not good news. He consoled, "It's okay, if it doesn't work out here, we'll try another place. We can definitely cure it. But why aren't you with Brother Cheng?"

Isn't this the time when Brother Cheng needs someone by his side?

"Brother Cheng wanted to be alone for a while." Thinking of the fleeting sorrow in Brother Cheng's eyes after hearing the doctor say it couldn't be cured, Ling Dong thought that among the many doctors in China, there must be one who could heal Brother Cheng's legs.

"By the way, how much chili sauce have you sold?" Ling Dong changed the subject, now only thinking of selling the chili sauce as quickly as possible and then going back to Brother Cheng.

"Eight hundred bottles."

Cheng Hao said proudly. He was already handsome, and with his gift of the gab, wishing he could convince anyone of anything, the most important part was that the chili sauce tasted good. Hence, in just one day, Cheng Hao had sold eight hundred bottles.

"That's not enough." Ling Dong said, and then accompanied Cheng Hao to several more places, selling a total of a thousand bottles before they both returned.

Pei Yicheng was reading a book. Seeing Cheng Hao's surprised expression, he raised an eyebrow and said, "What, did you think I would hide away and cry by myself?"

"Brother Cheng would never do that. I believe that Brother Cheng's legs can definitely be cured," Cheng Hao asserted confidently. He then excitedly said, "I sold a thousand bottles today!"

Two hundred yuan in hand!

Cheng Hao came both to divert Pei Yicheng's attention and also because he truly felt happy and excited.

Earning two hundred yuan in one day, he thought the business was profitable and much more enjoyable than working at the print factory.

Chapter 174: Boss Ling

"It's the chili sauce that's good, naturally it sells well."

Pei Yicheng heard this news and was not surprised; good products sell themselves, a principle that applies everywhere.

"However, selling another two thousand bottles tomorrow might be a bit difficult," Cheng Hao thought, feeling confident they could sell out with just a few more days.

"What do you think?" Pei Yicheng responded with a question.

Cheng Hao thought one shouldn't be greedy, and he was content to just sell the chili sauce. He said, "Yicheng, I will follow you from now on and not return to Ningbei."

"What about your parents..." Pei Yicheng asked.

"My parents always wanted me to achieve something great, and besides, being by your side, they couldn't be happier," Cheng Hao said cheerfully. In the past, Pei Yicheng was the typical 'child other parents talked about', so outstanding that others wished he were their son.

Even though Pei Yicheng had an accident that affected his legs, it still couldn't hide his excellence.

Early the next day, Cheng Hao and Ling Dong delivered the chili sauce to all the stores that had ordered it, spending a whole morning moving it all, and suddenly half the stock was gone from the warehouse.

"Ling Dong, I want to talk business with you. What do you think?" The owner of the glass factory, who had tried the chili sauce yesterday and liked it, found out they were there to sell it, and that they had moved a thousand bottles in one day.

The glass factory owner was eager to talk business.

The moment Cheng Hao heard this, his eyes lit up.

The glass factory owner explained, "My uncle owns a department store. He just happened to be at my house eating yesterday, tried this chili sauce, and liked it a lot. So, he wants to buy some. What do you think, can we talk about this?"

Cheng Hao looked at Ling Dong, thinking naturally that they could indeed discuss this deal.

"Yes, how much does the boss want?" Ling Dong asked, directly mentioning the price.

The glass factory owner paused, then said, "He wants to buy the recipe."

"Not selling," Ling Dong refused outright. He explained, "It's not that we don't want to sell, but we've set up a Chili Sauce Factory here in the county and registered the trademark with the business bureau. If we sell the recipe to you, what would we produce at our factory?"

The glass factory owner blushed, having previously heard that they were just a small workshop. He didn't expect them to be this formal, even having registered a trademark.

"I'm really sorry about that," Ling Dong said, considering they would still need to do business concerning glass bottles, his tone becoming much gentler.

"It's alright, I was just being rash," the glass factory owner explained. "My uncle is on his way here. Maybe, let him talk to you?"

"Sure."

Ling Dong felt that the meeting wouldn't be a waste of time and, from what he heard, the department store owned by the glass factory owner seemed quite substantial.

Soon after, the glass factory owner's uncle arrived; his surname was also Ling, named Ling Feng.

Ling Feng had a somewhat dark complexion, and when he smiled, his big white teeth showed.

Ling Feng was very familiar and did not get upset even after knowing he could not buy the recipe. Instead, he felt that if he could produce it himself, he would earn even more.

Now, Ling Feng directly discussed purchasing the goods.

Upon leaving the factory, the remaining thousand bottles, after just a short conversation, were all taken by Ling Feng.

"Isn't it strange, do you think that Mr. Ling is..." Cheng Hao came out of the factory still feeling dazed. Were those two thousand bottles really sold out just like that?

"He's smart."

Ling Dong, following Pei Yicheng, had learned quite a few things.

Chapter 175: Who Understands a Woman's Heart?

"Cousin, why does your department store need so much hot sauce?" Wang, the boss, was puzzled. Even if the hot sauce tasted good, there wasn't a need to buy so much.

A thousand bottles, to be precise.

You see, their previous batch of a thousand bottles had been sold in many places before they were all gone.

"Youcai, tell me, why did they sell a thousand bottles yesterday?" Ling Feng asked instead of answering.

Wang's full name was Youcai. Wang Youcai owned a glass bottle factory, which was quite successful. With his potbelly, he looked like someone from a wealthy household. He said, "Maybe it's because it's tasty?"

"Exactly, it's because it's tasty."

Ling Feng then asked, "Now, tell me, have you ever encountered such hot sauce anywhere else in South City?"

"No."

Wang Youcai shook his head. There were meat dishes at his home for every meal, and sometimes he dined outside for gatherings where chicken, duck, fish, and meat were abundant — who had the time for hot sauce?

Ling Feng asked again, "And have you seen hot sauce packaged in such attractive bottles before?"

"No," Wang Youcai responded, then added, "Isn't it just a bottle of hot sauce?"

"No," Ling Feng shook his head and said, "I work in retail, so of course, I know what sells and what doesn't. Don't underestimate a bottle of hot sauce. If it's not expensive and tastes good, a lot of people will surely come to buy it. If this hot sauce is available only at my place, or only sold in a limited area, then more people will come to my store just for the hot sauce."

"With more people, they surely won't just buy hot sauce, right?" The only thing Ling Feng regretted was not having eaten all of that hot sauce himself immediately yesterday.

However, those small shops and department stores couldn't compare with his.

In a place as big as South City, Ling Feng felt that if the hot sauce continued to be this delicious, it would definitely bring him more revenue.

Ling Feng thought that once he got back, he would find ways to let everyone know that his department store had such tasty hot sauce.

\*

South City.

After selling the hot sauce, Pei Yicheng and his companions headed straight for the biggest Xinhua bookstore in South City.

He sat in his wheelchair, patiently and meticulously selecting books and exam papers useful for senior year students.

"Cheng bro, when others give gifts, they give flowers, watches, snacks, or beautiful clothes. Who gifts test papers and books like you?" Cheng Hao looked at the massive pile of books he was picking out and felt a headache coming on.

His grades had always been poor, and he disliked reading the most.

"Then what do you suggest I gift?" Pei Yicheng asked casually while picking the books.

"Definitely clothes," Cheng Hao answered without thinking, "Look at Mrs. Cheng; she wears either a gray or a black shirt every day, and her pants seem to be black every day too. If you buy her a beautiful outfit..."

"No, buy two beautiful outfits, Mrs. Cheng would definitely be happy," Cheng Hao added. He thought that Nianhua's beautiful face was always spoiled by those ordinary clothes she wore daily.

"Cheng bro, what do you think?" Cheng Hao asked with a look that begged for praise.

Pei Yicheng gave him a sidelong glance, too lazy to continue the conversation.

"Cheng bro." Cheng Hao still wanted some praise, but Ling Dong cut him off, "If you gift clothes, you're definitely going to scare her away."

"How is that possible?" Cheng Hao retorted without thinking, "You don't have a girlfriend, how would you understand a woman's heart? Women love to look beautiful."

Chapter 176: Let's Switch to Another One

"I don't understand women, but you, understanding women's hearts so well, how come not a single woman is devoted to you?" Ling Dong's words were like a knife, stabbing straight into Cheng Hao's heart.

Cheng Hao defensively said, "Me, I just don't fancy them."

"Right, you don't fancy them. You just play around with them, but, you playing around, how can that be the same as Brother Yicheng's situation?" Ling Dong countered.

Cheng Hao's unreliable suggestions, even he thought they were hopeless, let alone the smart Brother Yicheng?

Besides, he had been in contact with Xu Nianhua for a while now; her principles were very strong. At first, she was saved by Brother Yicheng, then Doctor Du prescribed her medicine, and in a blink of an eye, she sent over mung bean jelly and later money for the medicine.

Moreover, when Cheng Hao brought back exam papers, Xu Nianhua and her brother sent over braised pork and a chicken the next day, ostensibly to replenish Pei Yicheng's health.

As for the food factory, Brother Yicheng wanted to help the Xu Family, but the Xu Family ended up helping Brother Yicheng make money instead.

The chili sauce stock sold out within two days, a perfect proof.

Thinking up to this point, Ling Dong wondered whether the braised pork was Auntie Ji's or Little Sister Xu's cooking. The taste was truly exceptional, rich but not greasy.

"I..." Cheng Hao wanted to refute Ling Dong's words, but, on second thought, Xu Nianhua was different from any woman he had met before; she shouldn't be lumped together with the rest.

"Brother Yicheng, let me help you with the books."

Cheng Hao, admitting he had said something wrong, followed Pei Yicheng, helping him with the items.

"Eh, Brother Yicheng, are these books for seniors?" Cheng Hao looked at the books he was picking. They didn't seem to be for seniors.

"I'll look at them myself."

Pei Yicheng responded and continued to carefully select books. The bookstore in Gaoliang County didn't have many books. Although he couldn't be in school, he thought he shouldn't give up studying; preferably, he could buy books from the school to self-study.

Thinking this way, Pei Yicheng turned to Ling Dong and asked, "Ling Dong, do you still have the school's contact number? Bring me the school's books as well, sometime."

"I have it." Ling Dong noted this task in his heart.

Cheng Hao looked at the increasingly heavy stack of books, thinking to himself that Brother Yicheng really loved reading, so why did it feel like reading hieroglyphs to him?

He still found beautiful girls more interesting.

\*

Gaoliang County, Du Family Medical Clinic.

Doctor Du had always been hoping for Pei Yicheng to return with good news. The clinic wasn't very busy.

Taking advantage of the lull, Doctor Du gave some instructions to the people in the clinic and then went back to check, thinking Pei Yicheng would definitely come home first upon returning.

These past few days, Doctor Du had been doing just this, always returning home in the afternoons, wanting to be the first to know when Pei Yicheng returned.

That day, Doctor Du guessed he might return, but then thought, maybe the leg treatment would cause a few more days' delay.

Doctor Du's heart was torn; he hoped his grandson would come home early yet also hoped he would return late.

In such a conflicted mood, Doctor Du spotted a car parked at the edge of the alley and couldn't help but quicken his pace.

Pei Yicheng sat in the yard, instructing Ling Dong and Cheng Hao to be careful with the books, not to get them dirty.

"Grandpa," Pei Yicheng was the first to notice Grandpa Du Chang, seeing his expectant eyes, he said somewhat guiltily, "Grandpa."

Doctor Du's heart sank, knowing this attempt had also failed. He comforted, "Don't lose heart; didn't I refer you to several good traditional doctors before? If this one didn't work out, we'll try another."

Chapter 177: Target Beining University

Gaoliang County No.1 High School.

On the podium, Teacher Li first expressed thanks for the test paper Xu Nianhua generously shared with everyone and then invited Xu Nianhua to come up and share her foreign language learning methods.

"You can do it!" Xu Nian'an whispered to Xu Nianhua.

Zheng Jin also gave a thumbs-up gesture.

Xu Nianhua, facing the gazes of all the classmates, didn't show any sign of stage fright at all. She had faced a crowd of three thousand in a training class without a hint of nervousness before. She walked steadily to the podium, not betraying any nervousness. Standing there, she looked at each familiar yet somewhat unfamiliar face, smiled calmly, and began with a simple self-introduction in a foreign language.

Her pronunciation in the foreign language was exceptionally standard, not a dull and boring introduction but instead lively and engaging. Her sharing that followed was equally captivating, with a blend of Chinese and the foreign language that never felt boring.

Teacher Li, standing to the side, couldn't help feeling ashamed. Looking at the nineteen-year-old girl on the stage, she always felt as if their roles were reversed, with Xu Nianhua as the teacher and herself as a student.

Not to mention the students, even Teacher Li, after listening to that vivid and interesting sharing, felt a sudden enlightenment.

The lesson passed by unnoticed in the midst of Xu Nianhua's sharing. As the bell for the end of class rang, Xu Nianhua's voice, clear as clinking jade, filled the classroom, "Classmates, we must strive in our studies to change poverty with knowledge, change our own destinies with knowledge, and defend our dignity with knowledge."

Xu Nianhua's voice was resolute and powerful.

"Ten years to sharpen a sword, its fragrance honed like blooming plum blossoms. I hope that all our efforts today will not be in vain in the future."

"Without toil, without fatigue, senior year is tasteless; without struggle, without endeavor, senior year is futile." Xu Nianhua's voice, full of inspiration, made all the students, including Teacher Li, feel as if they were returned to their own hardworking days.

"Without toil, without fatigue, senior year is tasteless; without struggle, without endeavor, senior year is futile."

Xu Nian'an murmured this phrase, and eventually, the whole class shouted it out loud, their voices growing louder until they were in unison, full of morale.

Teacher Li felt inexplicably moved.

The students sitting below the podium felt that Xu Nianhua's words were absolutely right. They were senior high school students, and some were even in a repeat year. If they didn't work hard now, wouldn't it all be for nothing?

The students were excitedly talking among themselves, and Xu Zhiyuan looked up at the radiant girl on the podium. As she spoke, confidence shone in her eyes, and her voice was forceful, compelling heartfelt agreement with her words.

When did Xu Nianhua become so eloquent?

Xu Zhiyuan furrowed his brows. The Xu Nianhua of the past wasn't one to talk much. When did she start to change?

Could it be true that he wouldn't be able to surpass these siblings?

Thinking of the recent monthly exam results, Xu Zhiyuan scored only three hundred points, still at least fifty points short of the university entrance score!

Fifty points, and he was unable to increase his score by even one point.

No, he couldn't allow himself to fall behind them.

Looking at Xu Nianhua, who was the center of attention like the moon surrounded by stars, Xu Zhiyuan secretly resolved to put in even more effort.

Xu Nianhua didn't know that her motivating words today also made Xu Zhiyuan study harder, but even if she had known, she wouldn't have cared. Her goal had never been Xu Zhiyuan; it was always Beining University in Ningbei.

Chapter 178: Good News

Beining University, whose name is just the reverse of Ningbei, is not only very famous in future generations but also extremely strong in foreign language programs.

Not to mention the future, even now, Beining University weights foreign language scores by 60 percent in the total score, completely different from other schools that only require 30 percent.

The school Xu Nianhua most wanted to attend was this one.

"Sis, when did you become such a smooth talker? That's really impressive."

"You spoke so well, I felt all fired up."

Xu Nian'an looked at Xu Nianhua with a proud face. His little sister was just that outstanding, making him feel a great amount of pressure as her brother!

"Especially that phrase, 'Without hardship, there's no flavor; without striving, senior year is in vain.' How did you come up with it?" Xu Nian'an asked Xu Nianhua curiously, finding the phrase extremely uplifting.

"Er..."

Xu Nianhua thought, did she copy it from the future?

Touching her nose, she said, "At that moment... A lightbulb went off, and I thought of it. Second Brother, are we going to the factory today to check it out?"

"I wonder if they're doing well in South City." Xu Nian'an thought of Pei Yicheng, who went to South City for his leg treatment, and those two thousand bottles of chili sauce.

It wasn't just Xu Nian'an who was anxious; Ji Ying and Zhou He, mother-in-law and daughter-in-law, were also nervously wondering whether the expensive chili sauce would actually sell.

The Du Family.

"Grandpa, don't worry, I won't be discouraged. My leg has been injured for so long; I'm not in a hurry at this very moment." Pei Yicheng's mindset, aside from some initial despair, had become quite positive.

His leg, which was initially declared incurable, now, after more than half a year, had such results that could have been anticipated.

As long as he didn't give up, he would stand up again one day.

"Good, that's my grandson." Dr. Du was very happy that Pei Yicheng had such a positive attitude. He didn't continue to discuss the leg issue but inquired about the chili sauce instead.

He was aware of his grandson's chili sauce venture with the Xu family.

Before Pei Yicheng could reply, Cheng Hao already couldn't contain his excitement, saying, "Grandpa, we've sold all two thousand bottles of chili sauce!"

Just these two thousand bottles of chili sauce managed to bring in eight thousand seven hundred and fifty yuan!

With just over a thousand more yuan, it would be ten thousand yuan.

Ten thousand yuan, in 1979, that was a substantial amount of money!

They earned it in just a few days' time; Cheng Hao deeply felt that sticking with Brother Cheng would pay off.

"All sold out?" Du Chang pondered the two thousand bottles of chili sauce, not a small number, and they all sold out?

Cheng Hao, with pride, shared how he managed to sell one thousand bottles of chili sauce, and at the same time, how the remaining bottles of sauce were all taken by that Boss Ling.

"Boss Ling sure has some boldness," Du Chang remarked, thinking that the chili sauce indeed had a great flavor, particularly when added to noodles in the morning, making the noodles even more delicious.

"Indeed," agreed Cheng Hao.

Cheng Hao couldn't wait to go to the factory and share the good news with everyone. Pei Yicheng initially didn't want to go, but after a second thought, he decided to join.

Ji Ying and Zhou He were busy at the factory, arranging dried bottles, gathering up the newly washed ones, and setting them out to dry. They hadn't seen Cheng Hao come in when they heard his loud and jovial voice announcing the news.

"Great news!"

Chapter 179: The Future is Long

"Great news."

Cheng Hao's voice arrived before he did.

Ji Ying, Zhou He, and Wu Meili, all three of them turned toward the factory gate. Xu Nianji was in the warehouse, arranging the chili sauce he had finished into the warehouse. Hearing the sound, he also hurriedly ran out.

Cheng Hao ran in lightly, and from the smile on his lips, you could tell he was bearing good news.

"All the chili sauce sold out!" Cheng Hao announced excitedly.

On his way there, he had been thinking about how to deliver the good news. Should he pretend at first that it hadn't sold out, then reveal that it had?

Or should he just say it sold out straight away?

Who knew, once he arrived at the factory, Cheng Hao simply couldn't hold back. With such great news, he wished he could have shared it the moment he learned it.

"Really?"

Ji Ying always found it unbelievable, as if she were dreaming.

"Of course, it's true." Cheng Hao repeated how he had sold the chili sauce, and Ji Ying finally believed that it was indeed real.

"That's wonderful."

Ji Ying was so excited she didn't even know what else to say.

Ling Dong, pushing Pei Yicheng at the factory gate, didn't rush in. If he went in, he feared the exciting atmosphere would instantly disappear.

"Brother Cheng."

Ling Dong only felt regret. He should have insisted on seeking doctors everywhere, regardless of Pei Yicheng's desire to stay quietly in the county.

"You're back?"

Xu Nian'an and Xu Nianhua had finished their classes a bit early since today was Saturday. They happened upon Pei Yicheng at the gate and, though separated by a wall, they could hear the laughter of their mother, sister-in-law, and older brother, which must mean the chili sauce had sold very well.

Xu Nianhua's gaze fell on his leg and he instantly understood that the trip to South City to treat his leg had likely been unsuccessful.

"Brother Cheng, what did the doctors say?" Xu Nian'an asked concerningly.

Ling Dong's expression darkened, thinking about what to say.

However, Pei Yicheng himself answered lightly, "This leg of mine still needs to seek another famed doctor."

Xu Nian'an was quick to realize the failure of this medical quest and opened his mouth to comfort, "Right, we'll find another famous doctor."

Xu Nianhua stood by, listening to Pei Yicheng's relaxed tone. Her eyes rested on his handsome face. Even though she had not seen any sign of unhappiness, she still felt a sense of suffocation deep inside; he was clearly in pain, yet he pretended it didn't matter.

"Brother Cheng, time is on our side. With the vast population of China, there must be some hidden famed doctors waiting for us to find them. Moreover, medical skills are constantly advancing; eventually, everything can be cured," Xu Nianhua stepped forward and comforted him one word at a time.

"Right," Pei Yicheng looked up, catching her gaze and replied, "Time is on our side."

Though his words were a response to Xu Nianhua, Xu Nian'an felt like they held another meaning.

But what else could they mean?

Xu Nian'an thought and thought and decided he was probably overthinking it.

Inside the food factory, as Ji Ying and the others had just received the good news about the chili sauce selling out, they heard that Pei Yicheng's leg couldn't be cured, and their mood instantly turned heavy. Everyone started comforting Pei Yicheng all at once.

Pei Yicheng said lightly, "It's okay, it's only been half a year for this leg of mine, I'm not worried about it this time or the next. Later on, we can consult more doctors and it'll be alright."

"The trip to South City wasn't in vain either; the chili sauce sold out, earning a total of eight thousand seven hundred fifty yuan," Pei Yicheng changed the subject.

Chapter 180: The Huge Sum of Four Hundred Yuan

8,750 yuan!

Everyone present, except for the informed Cheng Hao and Ling Dong, was shocked beyond belief.

Nianhua had not calculated the details before, but when he heard the price, he too was extremely shocked.

Nian'an had calculated it, yet when he actually heard the price, his heart skipped a beat.

"However, the costs are not small," Yicheng explained.

Wu Meili and Uncle Jiang took the initiative to leave because they had other things to do—they preferred not to listen to these matters.

When Yicheng and others entered the factory, Nianhua handed over the account books from the previous month; one for warehouse stock and another for purchases made, all clearly recorded in neat handwriting.

Just then, everyone calculated the accounts and, after deducting the costs, Wu Meili, Uncle Jiang's, and Cheng Hao's salaries, they achieved a profit of 2,500 yuan.

Of course, Ji Ying and Zhou He's salaries needed to be accounted for as well.

What does 2,500 yuan represent?

It's the amount that others might not earn in several years.

"Am I not dreaming?" Ji Ying looked at her daughter Nianhua.

She felt uneasy as if she was in a dream!

She had only hoped to earn around a hundred or eighty yuan; now they were telling her she earned 2500?

Although only 40% of it was theirs, that 40% was still a significant amount.

"You're not dreaming, this is all real," Nianhua also said with a broad smile.

"This time, let's first distribute a thousand yuan. With the rest, we will buy more chili peppers, chili sauce bottles, and labels," Yicheng handed over all the money to Ji Ying.

Aside from a passbook, there was also four hundred yuan in cash. He said, "I have already taken my sixty percent; the rest is yours. The money in the passbook will be used to buy raw materials, and I think we need to expand our workforce."

If the two thousand bottles of chili sauce were well-received, they would soon receive more orders; their small team definitely would not be enough.

"Right, we need to hire more people," Nianhua looked at the money and thought about the fact that the house was now debt-free; this money could be saved for future house building.

Ji Ying, holding the four hundred yuan, still felt as if she was dreaming; she subconsciously looked towards her children.

"Mom, we will improve our chili sauce, earn even more money, then Yicheng brother won't have to bear losses," Nian'an said, considering the agreement had been clear and the accounts were tidy, it was only right to accept the money.

"Yes, we need to do even better,"

Ji Ying confidently said, "The Yao family, Xu Yuchun's family, and the Cai family all have good relations with us. I'll ask them first if they're willing to come work. However, about the salary..."

"Of course, it should be the same as Aunt Wu," Nianhua interjected with a smile: "Aunt Wu earns forty yuan a month; Aunt Cai, Aunt Xu, and Aunt Yao will also earn forty a month."

"Exactly," Yicheng also nodded in agreement; since it was the same job, the salary would naturally be the same.

Ji Ying was thrilled at the thought; they would definitely be pleased to know.

...

Ji Ying anxiously brought the money home, feeling much more at ease. As for the passbook, it was in Nian'an's possession, well hidden.

"That's great." Ji Ying was so happy she even sang while cooking.